

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for configuring hardware devices in a pre-boot environment, the method comprising:

initializing a peripheral device in a pre-boot environment;

determining whether the peripheral device has a callable interface for a corresponding configuration utility;

providing a user interface which allows a user to select configuration of a device with a callable interface, the user interface further notifying the user of configuration possibilities for configurable devices not having a callable interface.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein devices having a callable interface are compatible with an extensible firmware interface (EFI) standard.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein initializing a peripheral device further comprises:

identifying a device connected to a system being booted; and
executing configuration code corresponding to the device, the configuration code residing in non-volatile memory on the device.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
selecting a menu item indicating configuration of a device corresponding to the menu item is desired;

automatically executing configuration code corresponding to the device, for devices with a callable interface; and
executing configuration code corresponding to the device after receiving a user response to a display prompt, for devices without a callable interface.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

selecting a menu item indicating configuration of a device corresponding to the menu item is desired;

automatically executing configuration code corresponding to the device, for devices with a callable interface; and

executing configuration code corresponding to the device, for devices without a callable interface, wherein the executing is performed automatically using emulated key presses.

6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein executing configuration code for devices without a callable interface further comprises:

identifying a vendor id for the device;

determining whether the vendor id uses a common key press sequence; and

automatically generating a key press sequence without further user intervention.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

selecting a menu item indicating configuration of a device corresponding to the menu item is desired;

automatically executing configuration code corresponding to the device, for a device having a callable interface; and

for a device not having a callable interface:

identifying a vendor id corresponding to the device;

determining whether the vendor id is associated with a standard key sequence;

if the device has a vendor id associated with a standard key sequence then automatically emulating the standard key sequence by the device manager, and executing configuration code corresponding to the device;

and

if the device does not have a vendor id associated with a standard key sequence, then executing configuration code corresponding to the device after receiving a user response to a display prompt.

8. An article of manufacture comprising a computer accessible medium having instructions that, when executed, cause the machine to:

initialize a peripheral device in a pre-boot environment;
determine whether the peripheral device has a callable interface for a corresponding configuration utility;
provide a user interface which allows a user to select configuration of a device with a callable interface, the user interface further notifying the user of configuration possibilities for configurable devices not having a callable interface.

9. The article as recited by claim 8, wherein devices having a callable interface are compatible with an extensible firmware interface (EFI) standard.

10. The article as recited by claim 8, wherein initializing a peripheral device further comprises instructions causing a machine to:

identify a device connected to a system being booted; and
execute configuration code corresponding to the device, the configuration code residing in non-volatile memory on the device.

11. The article as recited by claim 8, further comprising instructions to cause the machine to:

enable selection of a menu item indicating configuration of a device corresponding to the menu item is desired;

automatically execute configuration code corresponding to the device, for devices with a callable interface; and

execute configuration code corresponding to the device after receiving a user response to a display prompt, for devices without a callable interface.

12. The article as recited by in claim 8, further comprising instructions to cause the machine to:

select a menu item indicating configuration of a device corresponding to the menu item is desired;

automatically execute configuration code corresponding to the device, for devices with a callable interface; and

execute configuration code corresponding to the device, for devices without a callable interface, wherein the executing is performed automatically using emulated key presses.

13. The article as recited in claim 12, wherein executing configuration code for devices without a callable interface further comprises instructions causing a machine to:

identify a vendor id for the device;

determine whether the vendor id uses a common key press sequence; and

automatically generate a key press sequence without further user intervention.

14. The article as recited in claim 8, further comprising instructions causing a machine to:

select a menu item indicating configuration of a device corresponding to the menu item is desired;

automatically execute configuration code corresponding to the device, for a device having a callable interface; and

for a device not having a callable interface:

identify a vendor id corresponding to the device;

determine whether the vendor id is associated with a standard key sequence;

if the device has a vendor id associated with a standard key sequence then automatically emulating the standard key sequence by the device manager, and executing configuration code corresponding to the device;

and

if the device does not have a vendor id associated with a standard key sequence, then execute configuration code corresponding to the device after receiving a user response to a display prompt.

15. A system for configuring hardware devices in a pre-boot environment, comprising:

a processor having memory, input means and display means;

at least one peripheral device operatively connected to the processor, the at least one peripheral device having non-volatile memory for storing associated configuration code; and

a user interface running on the processor, wherein the user interface identifies configurable peripheral devices connected to the processor, determines whether a configurable peripheral device has a callable interface, and displays a menu on the display means, the menu allowing a user to select a device for configuration using the input means.

16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the user interface executes configuration code residing on a peripheral device in response to user selection of a corresponding menu item.

17. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the user interface enables execution of configuration code of a peripheral device by the pre-boot environment in response to user selection of a corresponding menu item.

18. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the user interface determines whether a device selected for configuration, the device not having a callable interface, has an associated standard key press sequence, and if so, then automatically generating the associated standard key press sequence.

19. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the generation of the associated standard key press sequence enables execution of configuration code of a peripheral device by the pre-boot environment.